Obsequies Of

Missionary Joyce Lee Whittington

Services
Friday, August 7, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Greater Refuse Whittington Temple COGIC
2001 - 73rd Avenue
Oakland, California

Biographical Sketch

Joyce Lee Whittington was born to Albert and Louella (Bell) Whittington on February 22, 1937 in Raleigh, Louisiana the eldest child (born fifteen minutes before her twin sister Mable) of eleven children.

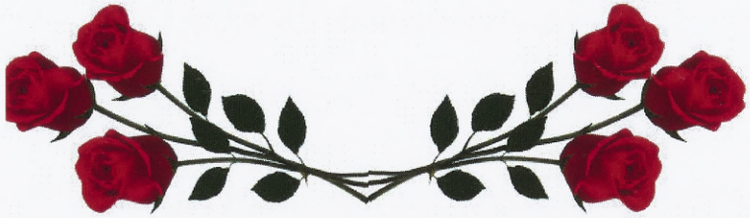
Raised in Natalbany, Louisiana, Joyce accepted the Lord at the tender age of nine and became a member under the pastorage of the late Bishop W.K. Gordon. As a young girl, Joyce would often hold church services under a tree at her school – always as the teacher or missionary. At age eleven she was appointed Junior Church Mother and later served as the Sunday School teacher for the card-class (children), Secretary of Bible Band and the Tribe Leader of the Pastor and Wife's Anniversary for the Youth Department.

In 1959, Joyce moved to Oakland, California with her twin and became a member of Little Refuge Church (now Greater Refuge Whittington Temple) under the leadership of her uncle and Founder, the late Superintendent Eugene Whittington. Joyce held many local church positions over the years, including but not limited to Youth Leader, President of the YPWW and Bible Band, member of the Trustee Board and Church Secretary.

1963, she was appointed District Sunday School Field Representative of the Richmond District under the late Bishop McGlothen. In 1983, she was appointed State Sunday School Field Representative of the Northern California First Jurisdiction under the late Bishop B.R. Stewart. In 1986, she was appointed Sunday School Field Representative of the California Northeast Jurisdiction under the late Bishop L.B. Johnson and served in that capacity as well as the Victory District representative for over twenty-eight years. In 1989, Joyce was appointed to the State Examining Board of Missionaries by the late Mother E.M. Devers. Joyce continued to serve on the examining board for many years and also served as Advisory Board President and Financial Chairperson of the Women's Department along with many positions for which there are no official titles. Joyce has always been very active and involved in church activities on the local, district state and national levels and whenever there was a need, she didn't have to be asked to meet it. She volunteered weekly for many years with the Alameda County Food Bank and various other community related boards and groups. For years Joyce worked with the late Mother Camp in the Home & Foreign Mission Department to fund international mission work.

When asked what she would most like to be remembered for, Joyce said that she feels her greatest joy was the Annual Honorary Program which she created, organized and sponsored for many years. This program was established to honor persons who were notable servants in their local church and was well attended by many religious denominations. This program was exemplary of who she was, a model servant. One year, unbeknownst to her, the Whittington Temple church family decided to honor her, and when she thought she was planning a service for a particular person, they managed to fly her sisters from Louisiana, and invite all of her friends and family from near and afar to surprise her. It was so monumental, Joyce cried tears of joy and was quoted saying, "Boy, you all really got me this time!"

Those who know and love Joyce remember her as the "Boss," and no one was exempt from hearing her opinion on the matter at hand, but because of who she was, she earned that respect. Joyce has been



known to take control in many circumstances, especially when it came to raising offerings for the church. She was masterful with church finances; which included knowing how to raise money, how to save money and how to properly spend church money. She would often have fundraisers like her stay-at-home tea, dinner sales and coin drives to name a few, but nobody could beat her asking, because she made the most creative and compelling appeals!

Like the Apostle Paul, Joyce can be described as being "all things to all people," and she knew no barriers. She was a selfless person; a mother, a sister, a friend, a teacher, a counselor, an advisor and much more. Simply put, she was a virtuous woman. A special place was held in Joyce's heart for her extended family which included the Bandel, Trimble, Somers, Hamburg, Shanks and Gracer families whom she worked for in various capacities for over fifty years. Rachel Hamburg-Minh was Joyce's heartbeat until her last breath. Joyce was also a foster parent to two daughters for several years.

Joyce had a heart full of love and love is what you felt whenever you came in contact with her. Even when she chastised someone, you knew it came from a place of love. She loved to visit the sick and shut in, and she had a widespread evangelical ministry as well; often sending scriptures and devotional readings in the mail to many people. Joyce was anointed to minister and teach the word of God. She was well-versed in the scriptures and was appreciated for her teaching style which could be described as "tight, but right!" Many were saved and reclaimed under her ministry.

Joyce was a cook like no other. She enjoyed entertaining guests, especially during holidays and church conventions and would feed anyone who was hungry. No one will ever forget Joyce's decadent Jell-O molds and her banana, carrot and zucchini breads. Anytime she was complimented on her dishes she would always smile and reply, "I cooked it with LOVE."

In late 2014, Mother Joyce's health declined rapidly, and after brief hospitalization, she was called to her heavenly home on August 1, 2015. Through her sickness and until her death, her faith remained intact and she was still singing and giving God praise. Joyce was invaluable to her church, her family and friends. She was loved and revered by many and can never be duplicated, neither will she ever be replaced.

Joyce was preceded in death by her mother and father Albert & Louella Whittington, Katie Hill (sister), Albert Whittington Jr. (brother) and Lillie Mae Young (sister). Leaving to celebrate her life and legacy are six sisters Mable Whittington and Gloria Hillburn (Oakland, CA), Ora Lee Brumfield, Virgin Warren, Mildred Whittington and Mauriann Corbin (Natalbany, Louisiana). One brother, Alex Hill (Hammond, Louisiana). One devoted daughter/niece Valerie Whittington, her son in the Lord Elder Ed Williams, Jr. and a host of other nieces, nephews and extended family.

"Well done good and Faithful servant. . enter thou into the joy of the Lord!" (Matthew 25:23, in part)

Celebration Of Life

Missionary Joyce L. Whittington

Friday, August 7, 2015. 7:00 PM
Greater Refuge Whittington Temple Church of God in Christ
Superintendent Carl L. Wheeler, Sr., Pastor

Processional ..... ***Clergy & Family***

Master of Ceremonies ..... ***Pastor Jabari Corgile***

Prayer of Comfort ..... ***Appointee***

Old Testament Scripture (Psalm 34:1) ..... ***Elder Ed Williams, III***

New Testament Scripture (I Corinthians 15:51-58) ..... ***Pastor William Petty***

Selection "Center of My Joy" ..... ***Whittington Temple Reunion Choir***

Church Tribute – Greater Refuge Whittington Temple COGIC ..... ***Sister Katrina Heard***

Resolutions:

Greater Refuge Whittington Temple COGIC ..... ***Sister Latasha Taylor***
Mingleton Temple COGIC ..... ***Dr. Sandy Stephenson***
Rainbow COGIC ..... ***Missionary Reatha Williams***

Selection "Jesus Promised He'll Take Care of Me" ..... ***Whittington Temple Reunion Choir***

Special Remarks ..... ***Elder Tony Williams***
Mother Vera Wheeler
Mother Gloria Wash (A Close Friend)

Selection "My Soul is Anchored" ..... ***Elder James Bellamy***

Reflections (2 minutes please) ..... ***Friends & Family***

Sermonic Selection ..... ***The Wheeler Sisters***

Words of Comfort ..... ***Superintendent Carl Wheeler, Sr.***

Glimpse 'Til Glory ..... ***Thompson Funeral Home Staff***

Recessional ..... ***Clergy & Family***

Jurisdictional Service

Missionary Joyce L. Wittington

Saturday, August 8, 2015 – 11 AM
Mingleton Temple Church of God In Christ
Bishop Michael Johnson, Pastor

Processional ..... ***Clergy & Family***

Master of Ceremonies ..... ***Superintendent Carl Wheeler, Sr.***

Prayer of Comfort ..... ***Pastor Ed Williams, Jr.***

Old Testament Scripture (Psalm 34:1) ..... ***Superintendent Erving Huddleton***

New Testament Scripture (I Corinthians 15:51-58) ..... ***Superintendent Sherman Harris***

Selection ..... ***Whittington Temple Reunion Choir***

Special Remarks ..... ***Superintendent Robert Reynolds***

The Life of Mother Joyce Song Medley: ***The Potter's House***
I Won't Let His Name Go Down
Don't Let the Devil Ride

Jurisdictional, Regional and National COGIC Resolutions ..... ***Dr. Barbara Williams***

Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women ..... ***Mother Diane Myler***

Selection ..... ***Mother Lillie Harris***

Remarks from extended family ..... ***Ms. Rachel Hamburg; Mr. Jay Trimble***

Selection ..... ***GRWT Reunion Choir***

Co-worker in Service of the Lord ..... ***Sister Deborah Figgs***

Remarks "Aunt Joyce" ..... ***Sister Ericka Young***

Words of Comfort & Recognition of Dignitaries ..... ***Superintendent Carl Wheeler, Sr.***

Sermonic Solo ..... ***Sister Alfreda Lyons Campbell***

Message of Hope ....."***Work" John 9:4***..... ***The Right Reverend Michael Johnson***

Glimpse 'til Glory ..... ***Thompson Funeral Home Staff***

Recessional ..... ***Clergy & Family***

Private Burial and Repass

ce Val Mable

TIJUANA·MEXICO·1970
MEXICO

"You Can't Wipe Off Real Love"

For Joyce ...We Love You ... Sandy

Ben, Alison Rachel 2/22/97

23rd Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

When you remember me
Please do not weep
My body may not be there
It has chosen to sleep
I'm not that far away
My soul lives on
Looking down, watching over
You and everyone
And when you feel sad
And life seems so blue
Just remember
That my spirit has its arms around you
And on those special days,
Times that you wish I could see,
That cool breeze flowing past you...
Well, that will be me
So don't be sad
Have no fear
God has taken me under his wing
But I'll always be near
I still watch you
Every minute, every day
My love and soul are with you
And that's where they will stay.
Family Friend Poems

~ *I'm Free* ~

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah, yes, these things I, too, will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
Wish you the sunshine of tomorrow,
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it with undue grief,
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now; He set me Free!

Author Unknown

Pallbearers

Superintendent John Greathouse
Mr. Ray Henderson
Mr. Johnathan Heard

Mr. Jessie Jackson
Mr. Charles Merritt
Mr. Ray McKenzie

Honorary Pallbearers

Mrs. Gloria Hillburn
Mrs. Ora Lee Burnfield
Ms. Mildred Whittington

Mrs. Mauriann Corbin
Ms. Vergin Warren
Ms. Mable Whittington

Interment

Rolling Hills
Richmond, California

In Appreciation

The Whittington Family wishes to express their utmost and sincere appreciation for every act of kindness that has been expressed through prayers, beautiful flowers, cards, food,and those appearing on the program. We have been strengthened by your prayer and unselfish devotions.

Special thanks to those who assisted with the funeral program details; Elder Brian Bingham, Pastor Carl Wheeler, Pastor Ed Williams, Jr. and Mother Gloria Wash.

Funeral Services Entrusted to:

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thompsonfuneralhome@sbcglobal.net
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